

unemployment insurance. But by failing to extend emergency insurance, we are creating a new disaster on top of the hardships already facing millions of American families, and we are damaging our economy.

During just the first week that emergency unemployment insurance expired, our economy took a \$400 million hit. Failure to extend that insurance could cost us 240,000 jobs this year due to lost buying power, exacerbating the difficulty for current job seekers and adding more to their ranks.

Mr. Speaker, this is not smart policy. It is coldhearted and shortsighted, and I urge my colleagues to join me in demanding a vote to extend emergency unemployment insurance today.

PRESIDENT OBAMA APPROVES "PRISON BREAK"

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, President Obama's lax immigration policies continue to put the lives of Americans at risk. Last year, administration officials released into our neighborhoods more than 36,000 criminal immigrants who had nearly 88,000 convictions. The crimes included hundreds of convictions for murder, rape, and kidnapping, and thousands of drug-related crimes. This would be considered the worst prison break in American history, except it was approved by the President and enabled by immigration officials.

The release of criminal and illegal immigrants into our communities already has killed or injured thousands of innocent Americans. The responsibility for this can only be laid at the doorstep of the White House.

If the President cannot be trusted to enforce current immigration laws, how can he be trusted to enforce future immigration laws?

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the threat of ocean acidification to my region and others. I live in the most glorious part of this world. As a dad, it is a joy to share the Pacific Northwest natural resources with my two little girls.

But those natural resources don't just contribute to our recreational experiences; they contribute to our economy, too. In Washington State alone, the shellfish industry contributes more than \$250 million to our economy and supports more than 3,200 jobs. Our coast depends on a strong fishing industry.

All of that is threatened by ocean acidification. Last week, in Tacoma, I listened to businesses, fishermen, and researchers detail how we are begin-

ning to see the effects of our changing ocean chemistry. It has impacted shellfish—we know that—but we have not yet begun to comprehend how ocean acidification disrupts our larger marine ecosystem.

That is why this week I am introducing the Ocean Acidification Innovation Act, which would encourage Federal agencies to better leverage existing Federal dollars by creating incentives for the private sector and researchers to strengthen our ability to research, monitor, and mitigate the impacts of ocean acidification.

Mr. Speaker, we need to act now. Our economy depends on it.

MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is the day we set apart to honor those who have given the "last full measure of devotion" in service to our Nation. It is fitting that we quote Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to mark this day, because though Memorial Day was not federally recognized until 1967, its origins trace back to the Civil War, when observances of what was then called Decoration Day sprang up throughout the country.

This Nation has been blessed by periods when war is not a recent memory; and in those times, the significance of Memorial Day can get lost in the pleasures of early summer, travel, and family barbecues. But we should always set aside time to remember the sacrifices made to safeguard our Nation.

We are now well into our second decade of having troops continually in active theaters of combat, and many have experienced the loss of a loved one. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers, especially on Memorial Day.

THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when our men and women in uniform take an oath to support and defend the Constitution, they enter into a contract with our government; and if they survive and return, they are veterans. Part of that contract entitles these veterans to quality health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Recently, it seems as though we are failing to uphold our part of this agreement. More than 8 million veterans seek medical care through the VA each year. Yet each year, we hear the same complaints of long wait times, canceled appointments, and concerns about the quality of care being administered.

One of the largest VA facilities in District 30 of Texas, which is my district, has major problems that are not

new and have been reported time and time again, year after year, with little change. This is simply unacceptable. We owe it to our veterans to provide timely and quality health care. Anything less should be met with great criticism and responded to with much-needed reform.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation will be judged by how we treat our veterans. Our veterans put their lives at risk every day while deployed. Their lives should not be at risk while seeking medical care here at home.

CONGRATULATING JESSE ZHANG

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jesse Zhang, an eighth grader from Missoula, Montana, on winning the Montana State Geography Bee last month. This week, Jesse was one of 54 students from across the Nation to travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Geographic Bee.

Jesse is a true example of the Montana work ethic. He studies geography for several hours each week and has a passion and commitment for learning that will continue to take him far in life.

Jesse, congratulations on this incredible achievement, and best of luck as you continue to pursue your goals. We appreciate your hard work. You make Montana proud.

□ 1230

THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I have stood here at this podium many times speaking on the extension of unemployment insurance benefits for what is now about 2.8 million people, and the need for immigration reform, about 11 million undocumented workers, yet you have not acted. Both have very strong bipartisan support, yet you have not acted.

How about looking at this in a way that makes our country proud? That is to look at the concept of "through no fault of their own." We are a great country, and we are a compassionate nation. We understand "through no fault of their own."

Remember, Mr. Speaker, to qualify for unemployment benefits, you must be unemployed through no fault of your own. The DREAMers, those who were brought here to this country through no fault of their own, let's act for them, especially those with no benefits and no status through no fault of their own.